JOURNAL OF THE

BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

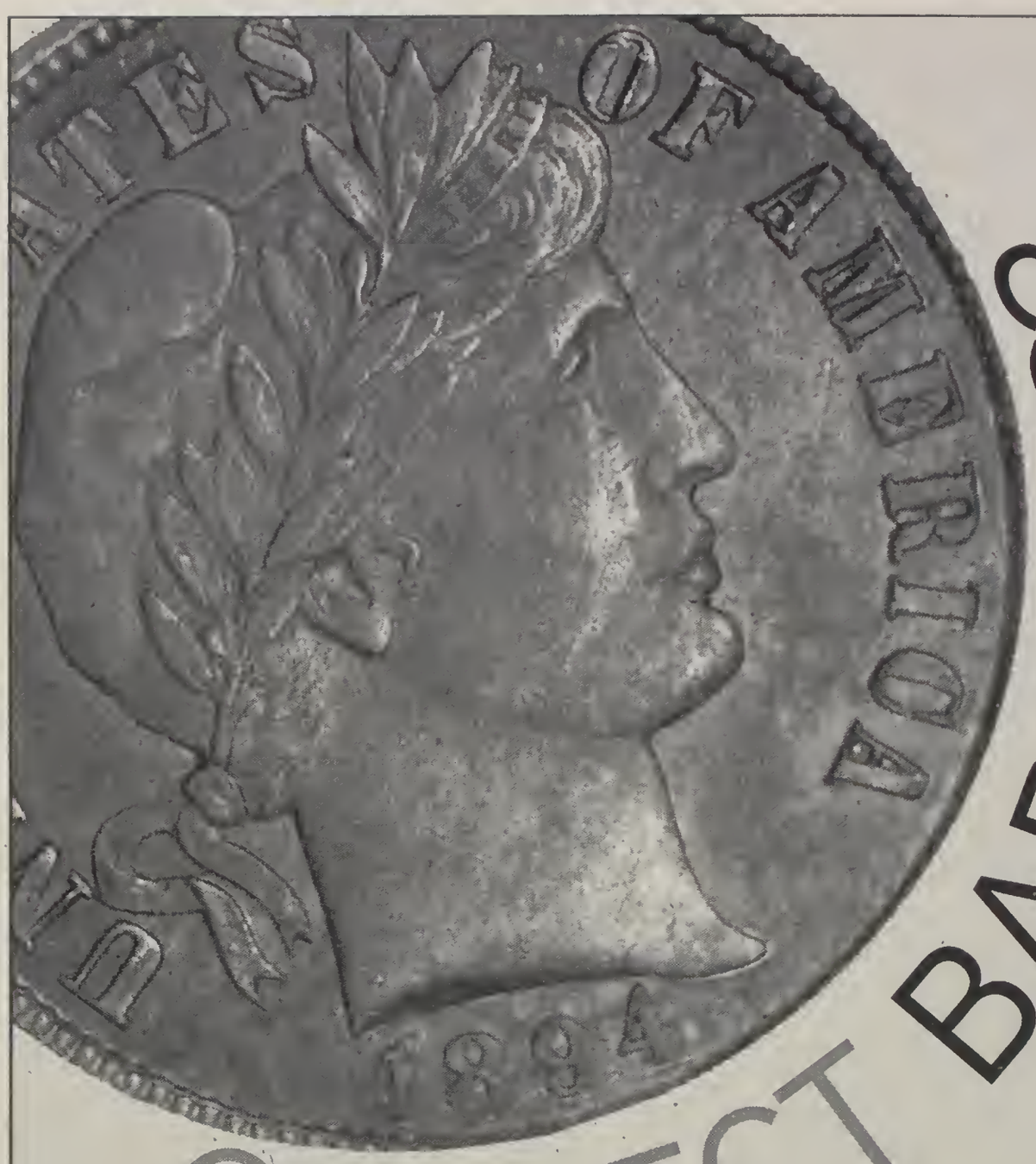
Volume 21 Number 1

2010

Obverse of medal with Barber bust of Theodore Roosevelt

See page 12

Photo courtesy of Phil Carrigan



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JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Founded in 1989 by Steve Epstein
ANA Club Member C-146266

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BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I write this message at the end of February with a few inches of snow on the ground and the air temperature 20 F degrees. When BCCS members receive this message and this *Journal*, Spring will have arrived, blossoms will appear and so forth. (I should note this weather event has happened in some regions and will not be on the scene in others.)

All this seasonal chatter is prompted by coin shows blossoming in March. The ANA has its National Money Show from March 25 to 27 in Ft. Worth, TX. A Central States convention and show is set for late April in Milwaukee. Two well-known Chicago shows will be held in March and April (first is the paper money show and later is the foreign coin show).

I won't attempt to chronicle smaller shows and west and east-coast large shows. Rather, my point is winter is ending and one can plan to travel close-by or fly away to one or more of these numismatic events. One additional show: the ANA summer convention in Boston, August 10 to 14, with the BCCS meeting set for Saturday morning.

Eileen Ribar holds our Society together both in a maternal manner and in the role of operations manager (note the dichotomy!). Whether she is looking at an enormous accumulation of back *Journals* or sees an opportunity to transform these issues into cash, consider obtaining earlier issues for your reading pleasure and as a reference resource. Look for her note on this and neat pricing (she may have a 'buy one issue of all available' deal if you ask).

Eileen and I intend to submit the BCCS *Journal* in the ANA competition for Outstanding Club Publication Awards. These awards are presented at the August ANA Convention. We will keep you informed on the outcome.

Please enjoy this issue of the *Journal.*

Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan

BCCS EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The 2010 F.U.N. Show turned out quite successfully for a number of reasons, but we Barber enthusiasts were most interested in the Jan. 7th Heritage Auction of a 1913 Liberty Head Nickel. Its final sale price of $3,737,500 to an anonymous phone bidder tied it for the third highest public auction price ever gotten for a U.S. coin. I cannot help but wonder how Charles Barber must feel. His principal rival, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, also had a coin he designed, a 1927-D $20, up for auction. Saint-Gaudens's piece went for only $1,495,000 which should have put a smug smile on Barber's face.

I am using this year's first *Journal* to take care of some BCCS matters, so please be sure to read through this issue's "Barber Bits" thoroughly. Among the topics covered: I have several cartons of *Journal* back issues stacked up and keep adding to them with each new issue. In an attempt to make them more available to you while decreasing the household clutter, we are offering them at discounted prices to members only. Also, ANA has several contests open to members and member clubs.

Current membership is 232 which is a great starting point for a new year. Those of you who have not as yet renewed your 2010 BCCS membership will find a renewal reminder inside this *Journal*. Please send in your annual dues as soon as possible.

BCCS finances are in good shape as you will see by examining our 2009 treasury report on the following page. Despite continually rising costs of mailings and printing, dues have remained the same.

The BCCS website is terrific and kept up-to-date. The annual BCCS

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of $50. Second place prize will be $25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

meetings at the summer ANA Convention and the January FUN Show are greatly enjoyed.

In fact, the only area which comes up short is member generated submissions for the *Journal*. I once again find myself in need of your input. The 2009 Literary Contest winners are found on page 14. If you were to ask any one of them, or for that matter any of the members who contributed something to last year's *Journal*, I bet each one would tell you that he received as much, if not more, satisfaction seeing his name in print as in getting an award. At risk of sounding like a broken record, **please seriously consider contributing to this year's *Journal* by way of typed, handwritten or emailed comments, discoveries, opinions, personal experiences, etc.**

BCCS Treasurer's Annual Report

Opening balance January 1, 2009			**$10,492.78**
Receipts:			
Dues	**2775.00**		
Advertising	**670.00**		
Back issues	**205.00**		
Donation		**20.00**	
Total	**3670.00**		
Total funds available:			**$14,162.78**
Expenses:			
Journal production	**3193.00**	**(Vol. 19 No. 4 and Vol. 20 No. 1-4)**	
Postage	**1246.04**		
Literary prizes	**75.00**		
Website	**35.60**		
ANA dues		**50.00**	
FUN dues		**15.00**	
Total expenses:			**$4614.64**
Closing balance December 31, 2009			**$9548.14**

View From the Rim

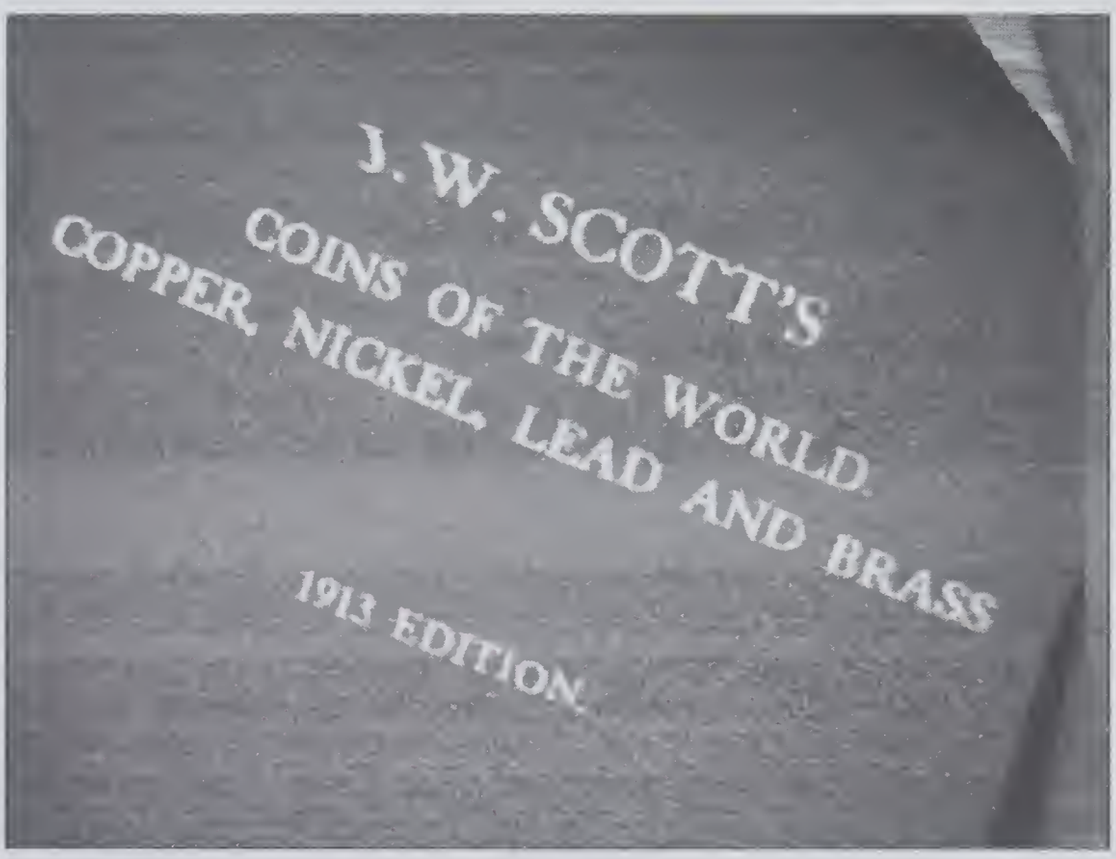
By **Paul Kluth**

No 1913 Even in 1913

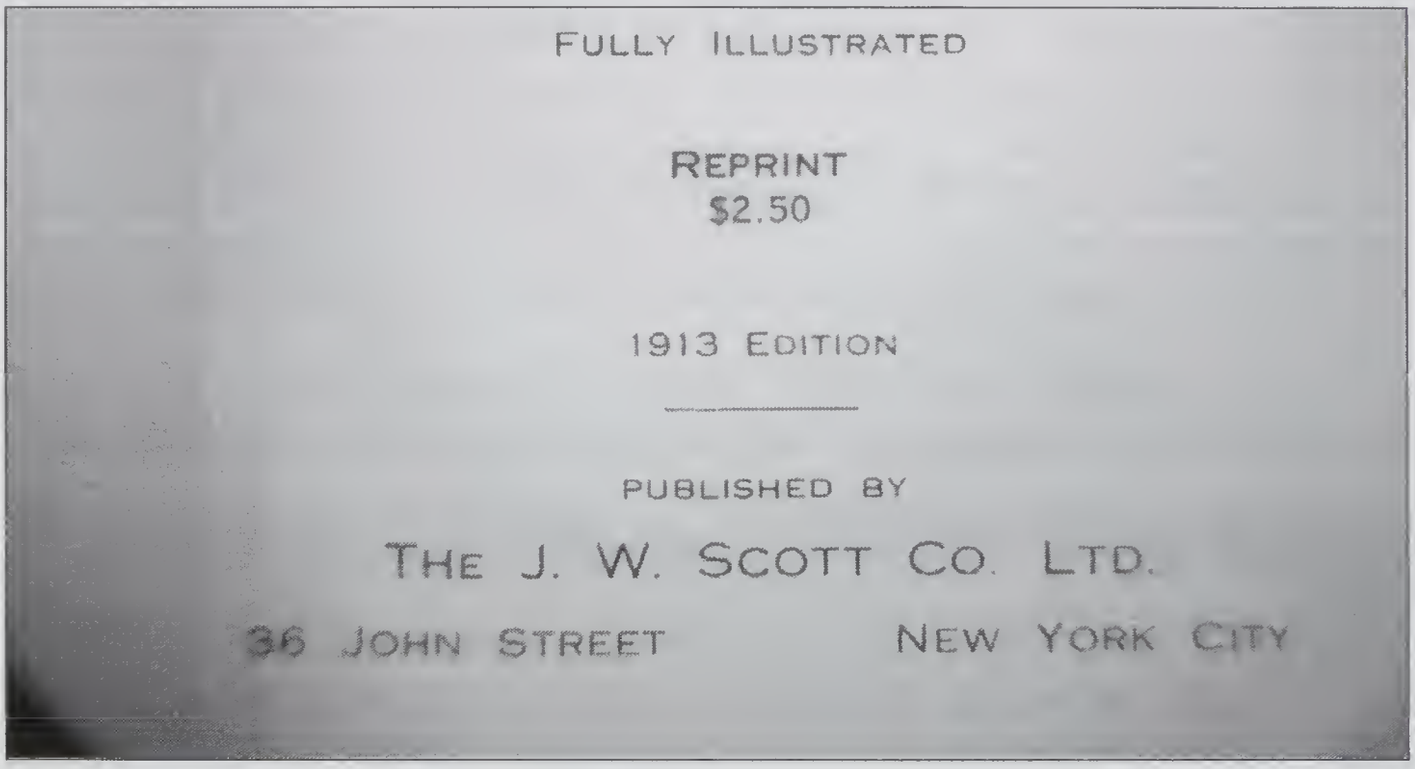
It was on a past out of town business trip that a rather unexpected surprise surfaced on an isolated shelf in a used book store... an old coin book stuck in with other more recent and common numismatic references, but published in 1913.

Images tell the story of this J.W. Scott's Standard Coin Catalog *Coins of the World: Copper, Nickel, Lead and Brass*. Unfortunately, the catalog does not contain any U.S. silver Barber issues which Society members are so fond of, but it does have the Liberty Head Nickels from 1883 to 1912 (missing the 1913 of course).

For the bibliophiles out there, this book is in like-new condition with the cover in a deep red cloth material with gold lettering. The pages are essentially in perfect condition except for a very slight off-white color from age. This book must have been stored in a perfectly dry location, possibly in a glass enclosed bookcase all these years.



This book itself is sort of puzzling too. It says on the title page that this book is a Reprint at $2.50. Was the original version actually published in 1913? We tend to think so based on the last listing date of 1912. So when was the book reprinted by the publisher? Was it that same year when the first printing run ran out of stock or many years later? Any members know their old Scott Catalogs?


FULLY ILLUSTRATED

REPRINT
$2.50

1913 EDITION

PUBLISHED BY

THE J. W. SCOTT CO. LTD.

36 JOHN STREET NEW YORK CITY

Wonder what some V Nickels were worth nearly 100 years ago? Take a look at the prices on the opposite page. The standard mint issues in Fine and Uncirculated condition and Proofs by single coin are not valued in dollars, but cents. Could you imagine buying those high grades and Proofs, and scarce date keys for those prices? Very cool! Get a load of the Proof Set prices for two, three and four denominations by date. Oh, those must have been pricey back then. The 1877 minor Proof Set was the most expensive at $12.00, obviously very expensive for most of the collecting public at the time.

Notice the listing for the 1882 Without "Cents"???

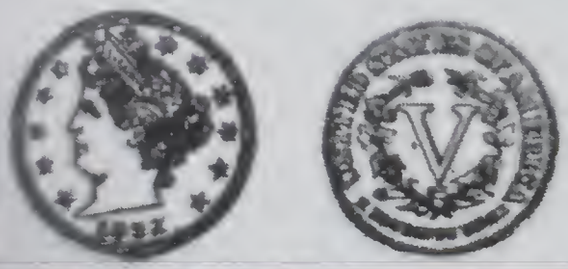
The 1912 "D" mintmark from Denver was actually recognized as a different mint issue.

And of course no 1913, one of the great collecting prizes today from any U.S. series. Being an unofficial issue at the time, it should not appear in any old list of U.S. Mint issued coins.

And you won't believe the pricing on early U.S. copper and tokens. The Chain Cents?... Oh my gosh!

	Good	Unc.	Proof
1867	10	25	50
1868	10	25	40
1869	10	25	40
1870	20	35	75
1871	50	1 25	2 00
1872	20	40	70
1873	15	25	50
1874	15	30	50
1875	15	35	50
1876	15	30	40
1877 Proofs only	——	——	4 50
1878 Proofs only	——	——	4 50

	Fine.	Unc.	Proof
1879	10	20	40
1880	15	30	50
1881	20	40	70
1882	10	20	35
1883	10	20	35



1882 Without "Cents"	——	——	——
1883 Without "Cents"	10	15	25

1883 "CENTS," motto above	10	15	25
1884	10	15	20
1885	10	15	20
1886	10	15	20
1887	10	15	20
1888	10	15	20
1889	10	15	20
1890	10	15	20
1891	10	15	20
1892	10	15	20
1893	10	15	20
1894	10	15	20
1895	10	15	20
1896	10	15	20
1897	10	15	20
1898	10	15	30
1899	10	15	20
1900	10	15	20
1901	10	15	20

	Fine.	Unc.	Proof
1902	10	15	20
1903	10	15	25
1904	10	15	20
1905	10	15	20
1906	10	15	20
1907	10	15	20
1908	10	15	20
1909	10	15	20
1910	10	15	20
1911	10	15	20
1912	10	15	25
1913 "D" Denver	——	25	——

MINOR PROOF SETS.

Date	Denom. of Cts	No. of Pcs.	Price per Set
1864	1, 2,	2	3 50
1864	1, 1, 2,	3	5 00
1865	1, 2, 3,	3	3 00
1866	1, 2, 3, 5,	4	2 00
1867	1, 2, 3, 5,	4	8 50
1867	1, 2, 3, 5, 4 without bars between stars		1 50
1868	1, 2, 3, 5,	4	1 25
1869	1, 2, 3, 5,	4	1 00
1870	1, 2, 3, 5,	4	1 00
1871	1, 2, 3, 5,	4	1 50
1872	1, 2, 3, 5,	4	1 50
1873	1, 2, 3, 5,	4	5 00
1874	1, 3, 5,	3	60
1875	1, 3, 5,	3	60
1876	1, 3, 5,	3	60
1877	1, 3, 5,	3	12 00
1878	1, 3, 5,	3	1 00
1879	1, 3, 5,	3	75
1880	1, 3, 5,	3	75
1881	1, 3, 5,	3	1 00
1882	1, 3, 5,	3	50
1883	1, 3, 5, 5, 5	5	1 20
1884	1, 3, 5,	3	60
1885	1, 3, 5,	3	60
1886	1, 3, 5,	3	60
1887	1, 3, 5,	3	60
1888	1, 3, 5,	3	60
1889	1, 3, 5,	3	75
1890	1, 5,	2	30
1891	1, 5,	2	30
1892	1, 5,	2	30
1893	1, 5,	2	30
1894	1, 5,	2	30
1895	1, 5,	2	35
1896	1, 5,	2	30
1897	1, 5,	2	30
1898	1, 5,	2	30
1899	1, 5,	2	40
1900	1, 5,	2	30
1901	1, 5,	2	30
1902	1, 5,	2	25
1903	1, 5,	2	30

FUN Show Wrap-up

The Winter Meeting of the BCCS was held at the FUN Show in Orlando in January. 17 people, including 10 members and 7 guests, were in attendance, our largest ever showing at FUN. What a great gathering!

After we did introductions, we discussed a number of topics before our Show and Tell session:

- We introduced (to the newcomers) the four-year census and rarity survey projects completed this past year, and handed out some printed results sheets for all four series.

- We discussed the idea initially presented at the 2009 ANA meeting about conducting census projects on varieties in the future. After bouncing around a number of ideas, we agreed that because of the amount of work required, a multi-year approach should be taken for doing the varieties census projects, and to go in the same order in which we did the rarity surveys. Thus, we will plan on conducting a Varieties Census for Barber Quarters next year, followed by halves, dimes, and Liberty Nickels.

In order to prepare for the Quarter Varieties Census in 2011, discussions are needed to determine numerous key points: which varieties should be polled, which designation(s) should be used (e.g., Cherrypickers, Kevin Flynn's book, PCGS Forum, all of the above, etc.), and how to identify them (photos, etc.). Accordingly, a Barber Quarters Varieties Committee has been set up to make these determinations and will prepare the needed content for the survey which we will try to target for January 2011.

If you are interested in contributing to this Quarters Varieties Committee, please send an email to the BCCS@BarberCoins.org mailbox and the committee will get in touch with you so you can participate. We have no idea how difficult this project may be to pull off by January, but we will try!

- A poll was taken of those present whether the Society would be interested in creating high-quality tokens to be handed out at meetings and shows to promote the Society and drive membership. We also talked about how this might be funded. The club had issued silver rounds many years ago (1992?), but the technology to create excellent quality tokens has improved greatly while costs have come down.

The idea of striking a large number of tokens in base metal for general distribution for the promotion of the Society, along with a limited edition in Silver to make available to Society members seems like a good method to make this a cost-neutral project. The club could sell the Silver versions to members at a modest profit, but still at an attractive price, to make up the cost of the tokens for giveaway and club promotion. The obverse would likely be Barber's Liberty Head, possibly dated 1892 (or some other date?). If you have thoughts on design ideas for the reverse, or on this potential project in general, please send us email at BCCS@BarberCoins.org., and we can have some firmer proposals prior to our BCCS Annual Meeting at this year's Boston ANA Show in August.

BCCS 1892-1992 Silver Round

• We had a short "Over/Under" game where attendees were able to guess whether certified PCGS/NGC populations of popular Barber coins in various grades were over or under certain numbers. This was for pure entertainment purposes, and some of the folks were surprised at some of the answers!

The meeting ended with our "Show and Tell." Some neat coins had been found on the bourse floor, and others were brought specifically for the meeting. Items included a MS 1898-O quarter with beautiful toning, a 1914-S quarter in AU58, and an original AU 1909-O quarter. A high-grade 1895 dime, and a couple of nice original AU Barber Halves were also passed around. Reports from the show floor indicated nice Barbers were hard to find.

Hope to see everybody in Boston!

A Charles E. Barber Medal

From **Phil Carrigan**

The two images accompanying this note depict a medal designed by Charles Barber. The medal was produced by Medal Arts Co. of Rochester, New York and created by Toivo Johnson. Specifications are 0.999 fine silver, weight 212 gm, diameter 76 mm. The medal was produced in 1962.

The obverse shows the Barber bust of Theodore Roosevelt.

The reverse (shown on the next page) depicts Barber coinage portraits including the $4 gold Stella, obverses for the 10c, 25c and 50c, the commemorative Columbian 50c and Isabella 25c, and reverses for the higher denomination circulating silver coinage.

This medal was obtained from Numismatic Auctions MBS XLIV, 7/31/09, held by Steven Davis of Lansing, MI.

BCCS "blind" Email List

The BCCS web service has the capability to send messages using a "Blind Carbon Copy" setting, which means everyone on the list gets the email, but nobody's email address is displayed. The advantages to having such a list include the ability to post last-minute BCCS get-togethers at regional shows and other types of Society communications, if needed, without having to wait for the next issue of the *Journal*. It is completely voluntary, and is open to members only. If you wish to be on this list, please send an email to: BCCS@BarberCoins.org and your name will be added. Your information will not be disclosed to anyone, and you will only receive email regarding BCCS business from the BCCS email account.

Barber Bits

2009 Literary Contest Results

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all members who submitted articles. This year's contest was very close - only ten votes separated the 1st and 3rd place winners. Each article entered received votes which means although it did not win, it was appreciated and enjoyed by your fellow BCCS members.

Our 2010 contest opens with this issue. To be entered, simply submit an article for publication in the *Journal*.

1st Place - $50 - "Barber Coins: A Lifelong Addiction" by David W. Lange

2nd Place - $25 - "Building a Barber Quarter Collection: My Recent Experience" by Randy Guggenheimer

3rd Place - 1 year FREE BCCS membership - "Collecting Barber Dimes in 1962" by Rich Dula

Dave Lawrence Barber Books now On-line at DLRC Website

John Feigenbaum is to be commended for continuing his father, David Lawrence's legacy of support for the coin collector. Thanks to John's generosity, all three of David Lawrence's Barber coin books - *The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes, The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters,* and *The Complete Guide to Barber Halves,* as well as *The Complete Guide to Certified Barber Coinage* by David Lawrence & John Feigenbaum - are available at the David Lawrence Rare Coins free on-line library website: http://www.stellacoinnews.com/. Simply click on "Reference Books" and scroll down to the book title you want. Access is totally free, no membership required.

Barber Barter

Barber Barter is available as a service to any BCCS member at no cost. Its purpose is for trading Barber coins only. Ads are limited to 50 words.

For trade: My choice original problem-free PCGS AU55 1894 dime for your choice original problem-free PCGS AU55 or AU58 1894 or 1895 quarter. Will consider NGC, ANACS, or ICG certified coin. Phone Doug Veal 319-447-1891 or email: dav110857@aol.com.

I need a 1913-S 25c in V6 or better. Please help. Scott. Email: christian62@sbcglobal.net.

I have a full collection of dimes, quarters and halfs. Also, I have the best in slabs that I can afford and the worst (F2). I have a large number of 13-S dimes. So, I have both raw and slabbed Barbers. Would be glad to show them in Baltimore if we can get together there or even Philadelphia would work.

Bob Lubberman

Editor's note: Please visit the BCCS website at www.BarberCoins.org and check out the page titled "Upcoming coin shows and events." The purpose of this page is to list upcoming coin shows where BCCS members will gather informally. In addition to our annual meetings at the ANA Convention and at the FUN Show, any BCCS member may initiate an informal get-together at a coin show.

If you will be attending a large or regional coin show, and would like to meet other BCCS members or Barber enthusiasts, please contact the webmaster and we will post it on this page. This page will be updated as gatherings are suggested.

National Coin Week, April 18-24 Contest

As announced on the ANA's website, the theme for this year's event is "Beautiful Places: Landmarks and Mintmarks," celebrating the many historic and scenic places that have inspired designs on coins and paper money throughout U.S. and world history.

As part of the celebration, a "Road Trip" treasure hunt will take participants on a virtual cross-country adventure. The ANA will provide clues on www.money.org and via e-mail for each of the items needed to complete the hunt. The first clue was posted on Feb. 15. New clues are posted each Monday until April 19. Participants are entered in a prize drawing for a 1/2 ounce gold coin (revealed during the trip), 2010 proof sets and other prizes. To receive information and weekly clues, e-mail ncw@money.org with "ROAD TRIP" in the subject line.

To get you started, here are the first three clues. Note: It is not the location but the coin associated with each location that is the item you will need to record.

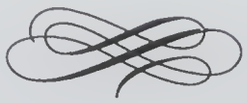
Clue #1 - Feb 15
Welcome to all, Happy President's Day!
Our bags are all packed, now let's get underway,
A road trip that takes us from west coast to east,
For fabulous prizes...or good fun, at least.
Commanders-in-chief give us clues for this week,
The beautiful place on the coin you now seek,
Was protected initially by Honest Abe,
And Teddy made sure it forever was saved.

Clue #2 - Feb 22
Our first stop's behind us, now onward we go,
And east on I-80, through mountains and snow,
Our journey this week takes us on quite a drive,
It's 800 miles till we finally arrive.
The object you seek depicts quite an occasion,
Connecting the boundaries of our immense nation,
A project that aimed to make oceans unite,
Was completed at last, with one final gold spike.

Clue #3 - Mar 1
Our road trip continues across our great nation,
So onward we go to a high elevation,
The object is simple, there won't be a doubt,

A cent with the mark of our next stop en route.
Our journey this week takes us one state away,
A capital town where the Avalanche play,
Since 1906, it's been host to a Mint,
It's not Philadelphia, that's one final hint.

Good luck to you all!



BCCS Journal Back Issues Discount for Members Only

As the Journal begins its 21st year in print, we are offering BCCS members the opportunity to obtain back issues at discounted savings. Unfortunately, of the 80 original issues, only 71 are available and several of them are in very limited supply.

You can order: 1 to 25 issues @ $2.00 each
26 to 50 issues @ $1.50 each
51 to 71 issues @ $1.25 each

Please contact me by phone, mail or email if you are interested in purchasing one or several back issues. You can request specific ones or a certain number starting with the earliest available or with the most recent counting backward. Again, I stress there are very few of certain issues left so please act quickly as it will be first come, first serve.

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of $50. Second place prize will be $25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS May 25th

Barber's Medals at Auction

By **John Frost**

One thing I never realized was that Charles Barber collected medals from the era when his father William, and later he himself, was Chief Engraver of the United States Mint.

In October, I was contacted by a couple who were descendents of Charles Barber, having been referred to me by a coin show promoter. Later, independently, they contacted me via a separate email thread when they did an Internet search and discovered the BCCS. It turned out that upon the death of Charles Barber in 1917, his estate, including a collection of U.S. Mint medals, went to his second wife, Caroline Gaston Barber. Through the generations, these medals were passed on, eventually to this couple who was finally interested in selling them (or at least most of them).

Having been already directed to Stacks for potential sale, they had no idea what these medals might be worth, and were primarily interested in confirming whether this was a good approach and whether their Stacks contact was reputable. Knowing the Stacks representative, I assured them he and the firm in Wolfboro, NH was an excellent choice, and that their "Americana Sale" was indeed a good forum for the sale of their medals.

In order to get some ballpark estimates, I asked them to send me a few images of them (with a coin next to each to confirm the size of the medals). The photos I received were blurry, but were sufficient for a medals expert friend of mine to identify them and give some estimated values, but we did tell them we had no idea what the Charles Barber pedigree would bring.

Blurry image of a medal with a Washington Quarter next to it to confirm its size.

The Medals

38 different medals were consigned to the Stacks January 2010 Amerieana Sale, all from the personal collection of Charles Barber. Many of them were U.S. Mint Assay and Presidential medals designed by Barber (obverse) and George T. Morgan (reverse). A number of them were medals designed by William Barber, Charles' father and predecessor as Chief Engraver. A few others were Morgan's work.

Some of the medals had popular people as subjects, and others were various award and miscellaneous commemorative medals. Most of the medals were bronze, but a number were silver, and some were off-metal strikings, such as the 1905 Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Medal in aluminum.

Perhaps the highlight of the sale was Barber's numbered Columbian Expo Award Medal (below). But in this market, what would these medals bring at auction?

1893 Columbian Expo Award #6 and 1901 William McKinley Assay.
(These two images courtesy of Stacks.)

The Auction

I was not able to attend the auction in person as I was in London on a business trip at the time. There were three medals I was interested in, so I left some bids on the Internet, and also was participating over the Internet via live video feed.

There was a lot of action on many of the medals. The first few went very strong, and a lot of floor and phone bidders competed for the medals. The prices realized depended heavily on the topics represented in the medals and their metal.

While some of the more common bronze commemorative and tribute medals went for a few hundred dollars, the medals featuring popular people or events were very strong. The Theodore Roosevelt medals were strong, and the 1869 Pacific Railroad Completion Medal brought good money for a bronze medal. My friend told me railroad theme medals are always popular. The 3" Columbian Expo Award Medal brought the highest amount at $5,750.

As for me, I got blown away on two of my bids, but was successful on the item I wanted most, the 1906 Theodore Roosevelt Assay Medal in silver, in the original display case, pictured below.

As TR is a personal hero of mine for many reasons, this choice uncirculated medal with original patina will have an honored place in my collection, and will no doubt be brought to a future BCCS meeting. It still is amazing to think this magnificent medal was held and treasured by Barber himself.

I think the family descended from Charles Barber must be pleased with the auction results. And for us Barber collectors, what a unique opportunity this was to obtain a piece of history. And there can be no better pedigree for medals designed by Barber than the ones that he owned personally.

An excerpt from this article and some color images will be posted in the near future on the BCCS website.

Barber Coin Collectors' Society

1. Promotes the writing and sharing of information on Barber coins to an organization of individuals who are interested in increasing their knowledge of the series; for Society purposes, Barber coins are defined as primarily U.S. dimes, quarters and half dollars designed by Charles E. Barber, and minted from 1892 to 1916.

2. Gives Barber hobbyists an opportunity to contact other collectors with similar numismatic interests.

3. Can promote consistent grading standards among collectors, dealers, society members and non-members alike.

4. Through group purchasing power, can offer its members discounts on numismatic materials relating especially to the collecting of Barber coins.

5. Provides members a means to trade their Barbers with other members, in an effort to upgrade or complete their collection.

6. Effectively lobbies numismatic shows and events to provide Barber exhibits and space for all Barber dealers to sell their merchandise.

7. Promotes the collecting of Barbers and the hobby in general to today's youngsters.

8. Offers benefit to all Barber collectors, whether they collect Barber dimes, quarters or halves, graded AG or MS65+.

9. Makes sure its members have a say in the organization.

10. Is a not-for-profit organization dedicated solely to the benefit of its members and those who assist the Society in advancing its purpose.

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